

TEX RICKARD IS HELD ON GIRLS' CHARGES

He Is Said to Have Offered
Wine in Madison Square
Garden's Noted Tower.

VISIT TO FLAT ALLEGED

Two Told of Taking Iodine,
but Doctors Found No
Trace of Poison.

HINT OF PLOT IN CHARGES

Mistaken Identity One Theory,
as the Defendant Denies.
Ever Seeing Accusers.

George L. (Tex) Rickard, internationally known sporting man and present lessee of Madison Square Garden, was arraigned yesterday in the West Fifty-fourth street court and held in \$1,000 bail by Magistrate George W. Simpson on charges of attacking Alice Ruck, 15, of 225 East Twenty-first street. Two other girls, Elvira Hess, 12, of the same address, and Anna Hess, 11, of 232 East Twenty-first street, figure in the case, and all three are being held on a blanket charge of incitement to the society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Rickard, who was not arrested until after he had appeared voluntarily in the magistrate's court, entered a general denial to the charges through his counsel, Max D. Steuer. He insisted that he knew none of the persons responsible for the complaint, and that the whole proceeding was a surprise to him. At the request of counsel the case was postponed until Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

News of Rickard's arrest spread through sporting circles yesterday afternoon with all the speed of a sensation. The promoter himself was uncommunicative except to repeat that he knew nothing about the charges against him. As he left the Court House Rickard chewed at the end of a cigar and gave the appearance of a man who was worried, but when this was suggested to some of his friends the explanation was offered that any man who has Rickard's interests at stake would be worried over such charges even should they be thoroughly disproved.

Gibson Holds the Umbrella.

It was noted that among those who accompanied Rickard to court, and who left with him in a taxicab and obligingly held the umbrella was Billy Gibson, another boxing promoter, with whom the public has been led to believe that Rickard was at odds.

There were hints too that Rickard was the victim of a plot to drive him from the New York promotion field. Vague as these were indications that they would be thoroughly sifted appeared in a statement issued by Mr. Steuer late in the afternoon. It was: "I was retained by Mr. L. Howard Lehman, the attorney for Mr. George Rickard, to represent him in the charge that was lodged against him in the magistrate's court this morning. Subsequent to his arraignment I went over the alleged charge with Mr. Lehman and Mr. Rickard and I found that so far as they know it is absolutely and utterly without foundation. The situation is mystifying. Mr. Rickard is at the present time engaged in considerable litigation and undoubtedly has a number of very bitter enemies."

"We have not up to this time succeeded in tracing the cause or origin of this horrible accusation," Mr. Rickard's counsel said. "He is unacquainted with the person or persons who make it and that he cannot conjure any circumstances by reason of which it should have been made. The matter came to him as a complete surprise. We shall cause it to be very thoroughly investigated, and as soon as we learn the real facts will be very glad to give them to the public."

The story of the alleged relations of Rickard with the three girls, as it was pieced together by Vincent Pisarra, superintendent of the Children's Society, from alleged confessions made by the mothers of the girls since the girls were placed in their care a week ago, has for its setting the famous tower of Madison Square Garden. The situation, while entertained Evelyn Nesbit.

Girls' Homes in Tenements.

The homes of the three girls are in East Side tenements. The two younger ones are supposed to go to school in 224 West Twenty-seventh street, the oldest one and alleged victim lives with her widowed mother and grandmother.

The three girls are chums, and, according to Superintendent Pisarra, during the hot weather last summer went one day to the Madison Square Swimming Pool, conducted by Rickard. Their story was that there they met Rickard, who joked with them a bit and gave them tickets for a return visit. It does not appear that the Ruck girl was present on this or any other specific occasion, but, according to their story, Alice and Anna made visits to the Garden Swimming Pool almost a part of their daily routine.

Rickard, they told the Children's Society agents, occasionally gave to them a dollar or so each, and eventually suggested that they go to his office in the tower for a glass of wine. They followed, according to Pisarra, a series of visits to Rickard by the Ruck and Hess girls to an apartment at 20 West Forty-seventh street, where the apartment charged in the complaint is alleged to have taken place on December 18.

Their story was that the promoter gave them the Forty-seventh street address on a slip of paper and suggested that they meet him there. The apartment the girls described tallied closely, the police said, with a description they obtained from the janitor of an apartment occupied by an associate of Rickard, Walter Field, who could not be found yesterday. Field formerly lived at another address at 100 West Forty-seventh street, which also was mentioned by the girls, but moved to his present address last October.

Knowledge of the girls' complaint against Rickard followed the appearance early last Monday morning at Bellevue Hospital of the Ruck and Hess girls. It was after midnight and they continued to the hospital authorities that they were afraid to go home and had drunk iodine. Examination disclosed no traces of iodine in their system, and last Sunday the girls were taken by the hospital authorities to the West Thirty-fifth street police station, from where

HIRSHELD TELLS CRAVATH BIRTH CONTROL IS AN ISSUE

Investigation to Go Forward To-morrow on That Basis
Notwithstanding Protest That Free Speech Is
Main Point at Stake.

David Hirschfeld, Commissioner of Accounts, replying yesterday to a letter from Paul D. Cravath in which Mr. Cravath said that in making complaint about the prevention of the birth control meeting in Town Hall he was interested not in birth control but in free speech, indicated that he would follow out his original plan of investigating the entire subject.

When Commissioner Hirschfeld wrote to Mr. Cravath on January 17 announcing that at last he had found time to investigate the prevention of the meeting he closed his letter with this statement: "I propose to hear all those who may wish to speak concerning the conduct of the police on that occasion or upon the subject of discussion at that meeting."

Mr. Cravath replied that when he and other citizens wrote to Mr. Hirschfeld demanding an investigation they were not interested in hearing arguments on the subject of birth control, but simply wanted to know whether the rights of free speech had been violated. In his letter yesterday, replying to that protest, Mr. Hirschfeld said:

"I deem it but fair to recall that in your letter to the Mayor, also signed by Mr. Lewis L. Delafield, Mr. Charles C. Burlingham, Mr. Samuel H. Ordway, Mr. Pierre Jay, Mr. Paul M. Warburg, Mr. Charles Strauss, Mr. Montgomery Hare, Mr. Henry Morrell, and Mr. Herbert L. Satterlee, you called the Mayor's attention to the grave and flagrant interference with the right of free speech which has been recently practiced by the Police Department of this city, and you respectfully asked 'for a public investigation of the causes of this interference.'"

"Under date of the 17th inst. I informed you that, in order to enable me to comply with your request for a public investigation of the causes of this interference, I proposed to hold a public hearing on the subject under the auspices of the Police Department, and now, when I am about to comply with your request to the Mayor, you write that the responsibility of the investigation rests with me and that if I should consider at the hearing before me the subject of the cause of the police interference that it will not be because of your request."

"In conclusion, let me assure you that I shall, under all circumstances, proceed with the investigation or Monday morning. I cannot, however, banish the thought that you and your colleagues are now seeking to sidestep the responsibility which ordinarily rests upon complainants."

They were turned over to the Children's Society with record of their statements and a request to investigate. After hearing the stories of the alleged visits to Rickard's office in the tower of Madison Square Garden and to the West Forty-seventh street flat agents of the society took the girls on Friday before Ferdinand Pecora, Chief Assistant District Attorney, to whom they repeated their stories and who determined upon Rickard's arrest.

When Rickard's arrest was decided upon Friday night he was sought at Madison Square Garden, where a pro-gram of boxing bouts was in progress. He was not there, but a short time later his counsel, Mr. Steuer, telephoned to the District Attorney that he would be in court yesterday morning.

When he arrived Rickard was escorted into the room and not immediately placed under arrest. When the final complaint was drawn, however, and attested by August Mason, an agent of the society, he was formally taken in custody by Detectives George F. McCann and Charles G. Flaherty. His arraignment and release on bail followed.

Scores of the promoters' friends were present during the short proceedings, word of which had spread up and down Broadway during the early hours of the morning. Their only explanation, and which occurred in a nod and a monosyllabic "Yes" by Rickard, was that it was a case of mistaken identity.

Police Force Entry to Flat.
A party of six detectives, some of them from the Children's Society and the rest from the East Thirty-fifth street station, visited the three-story house at 20 West Forty-seventh street yesterday afternoon with the Ruck girl.

The superintendent of the building refused to let them into the apartment of Walter Field, on the second floor, where they said they wanted to go. One of the detectives climbed by the fire escape through a rear window and opened the door of the apartment from the inside. The girl was shown the first room, and according to Superintendent Pisarra, said it was the one in which the alleged attack took place.

The apartment was rented on October 1 by a man who said he was Walter Field, according to the superintendent. It is a furnished apartment consisting of three rooms and a bathroom and rents for \$1,600 a year. There are three apartments on the upper floors, but the parlor floor and basement are used for business purposes.

Detectives of the East Thirty-fifth street station said last night that Anna Hess with another girl figured in the arrest of Angiolio Bellery of 242 East Twenty-eighth street on November 20 on a similar charge made by an agent of the Children's Society. The detectives stated that the physician Bellery could not be guilty of the crime and the complaint was dismissed.

When the Hess girl was in Bellevue Hospital a few days ago, according to the police, some of the detectives who visited there on other business recognized her and said: "Are you in trouble again?" The girl, they added, "just smiled."

At the homes of the three girls no particulars of the affair were known. The girls had been in the hands of the Children's Society for a week—that was all their parents or other relatives knew. All three girls spoke frequently last summer of the Madison Square swimming pool, but as far as could be learned never mentioned Rickard.

The Ruck girl lives in a modestly furnished flat on the top floor of a tenement. It is a front apartment and apparently the best in the house. The homes of the other two girls suffer by comparison even with that one. The Ruck girl's father conducts a shoe repair shop and fruit stand at Third avenue and Twenty-fifth street. He had never heard his daughter mention Rickard and said he couldn't understand the affair or why the society was keeping her in charge.

The Ruck girl's mother broke into tears and protested that she had been unable to get any information herself from the society's agents. She declined to answer questions. The Hess girl's home is a two-room basement apartment that is occupied by her father, a mechanic; her mother and two brothers. Naturally the best in the house. When her daughter had failed for the first time to return home her father and brothers went in search of her. Some time later, she said, a police officer came to the East Thirty-fifth street station called and said the girl was there. That was all she knew of the affair.

Charges Charge Incredible.
Major A. J. Drexel Biddle, whose association with Rickard has covered many years, last night issued this statement: "No man in America knows Tex Rickard better than I do. I have been in his company for months at a time and have had an opportunity to study the man from every point of view. Two years ago I traveled from here to Los Angeles with Tex, and we occupied the same room. We went to Dempsey's training quarters at Los Angeles and were there some days. Later we journeyed together to Texas and were there for a long period."

"Tex Rickard is a man, every inch of him. He is the soul of honor and unquestioned integrity. Not only is he a real man, but a devoted family man. He has been my privilege to know Mr. and Mrs. Rickard for years. Tex and his wife were inseparable companions and a loving couple. They enjoyed the friendship and esteem of the late Col. Roosevelt and were with him in a journey through South America. Tex and his wife lived in the saddle for nearly two years in South America and rode over vast areas of desert and sand. "To me it is incredible that such a man, of such splendid character, should be mentioned in connection with such an accusation. I cannot conceive of him being charged with such an offense, and I feel confident he will be absolved."

PAYROLL BEARERS OUTWIT ROBBERS

Baudits on Job Too Early Betray
Themselves and Are
Forced to Flee.

TAXICAB AND \$24 STOLEN

Holdup Men Get \$800 Cash in
Visit to Grocery in Bedford
Avenue, Brooklyn.

Two messengers of the Cole-Duncan Boiler Works, Inc., 251 Borden avenue, Long Island City, took to their heels yesterday when they were accosted by two men near the company offices and saved \$800. One messenger with the money ran into an alley, and his companion blocked one of the bandits who sought to follow and knocked him down. The bandits then ran away.

A few minutes before, with a showing of revolvers, the bandits had entered the boiler works office and compelled John Meldrum of 99 Meserole street, Brooklyn, the general foreman, to throw up his hands.

"Hand over the money," they commanded. "We want the payroll." "It isn't here," said Meldrum. "We'll go look for it, then," said the bandits. They left Meldrum to a blurt, and had just finished this when George

MRS. BULL IN SOUTH, HER MIND BLANK

Former N. Y. Pastor Tele-
graphs of Her Arrival in
Mount Gilead, N. C.

Mrs. Ella Arlene Bull, who disappeared New Year's eve from her home in Ridgewood, N. Y., with her daughter, Eleanor, 7, and Raphael Costa, a high school boy, was reported found last night in Mount Gilead, North Carolina. The following message was received in Ridgewood from the Rev. Oscar Haywood in Mount Gilead:

"Mrs. Bull arrived here from Atlanta. Her mind is almost blank. Have taken her to my home."

Mrs. Bull's husband, Aubrey H. Bull, on receipt of the telegram started for North Carolina. He said he supposed his daughter was with his wife, though the telegram from Dr. Haywood failed to mention her.

When Costa returned Friday from Toronto, Canada, he told Mr. Bull and the police that Mrs. Bull had said to him several times she would like to see Dr. Haywood. It was learned that Dr. Haywood formerly was pastor of a Baptist church in Manhattan and that he had known Mrs. Bull many years. Dr. Haywood sent a message earlier in the day saying he had not heard from Mrs. Bull, but soon after he sent it she appeared.

The finding of Mrs. Bull in North Carolina substantiates part of the story which Costa told to Mr. Bull and the police. Costa thought, however, Mrs. Bull had killed herself. He said she was not in her right mind, and that she continually said: "Ralphie, I can't stand it any longer. Herman and the old man are driving me crazy."

She called her husband Herman. The "old man" she referred to is her father, John Dugan, who lived at the Bull home at 23 Garfield place, Ridgewood.

Costa said that when he was driving her and her daughter to Hoboken on the day they disappeared she threatened to kill herself and the child before she would go back home. She said she had a pistol with her.

**WOMAN MOTORIST
CHARGED WITH KILLING**
Child Struck by Her Car Dies in Hospital.

Following the death of Dominick Leo, 6, 14 Dooley street, Brooklyn, of injuries suffered when he was struck by her automobile last Tuesday, Mrs. Lauretta Thompson of 2117 East Fourteenth street, Brooklyn, was arraigned in Coney Island court yesterday on a charge of manslaughter. Magistrate O'Neill held her in \$10,000 bail for further examination Friday. The 100 boy died at Coney Island Hospital Friday night. Gerald Fox, 6 years old, of 2721 East Twenty-third street, who was run down by Mrs. Thompson's car at the same time, is said to be in a serious condition at the hospital.

While driving her car on Ocean Parkway about two weeks ago Mrs. Thompson, the police say, ran down Joseph Dunn, a motorcycle policeman, who still is at the Kings County Hospital because of his injuries. Her husband, Robert Thompson, an insurance man, was killed in an automobile collision in Brooklyn two months ago.

**GAS COMPANIES SWEAR
\$1.25 RATE IS FAIR**

Justified by Decision in the
U. S. District Court.

The New York Mutual Gas Light Company, the Standard Gas Light Company, the New Amsterdam Gas Company, and the East River Gas Company of Long Island City filed affidavits with the Public Service Commission yesterday in justification of the \$1.25 rate which they have filed, to supersede the \$1.25 rate.

It is explained that the companies recently have obtained a final decree in their rate suits in the United States District Court and that the \$1.25 rate is slightly less than they are entitled to receive. However, they are willing to take \$1.25 in the interest of uniformity with the Consolidated Gas Company.

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DOG FOILS WOMAN SLAYER IN ESCAPE

Leaps On and Knocks Down
Olivia Stone, Who Killed
Kinkead.

Miss Olivia M. P. Stone, graduate nurse, who shot and killed Ella Guy Kinkead, an attorney, on August 4 last as he was entering his home in Brooklyn, attempted yesterday to escape from Raymond street jail. She was in a line of seven women inmates leaving the mess hall after breakfast when she ran down the staircase and got a good start before the end of the matron, Mrs. Katherine Slevin, could raise an alarm.

Miss Stone rushed down three flights of stairs to the jail kitchen. Harry U. Honeck, the warden, whose rooms are on the second floor, came out just as she flashed by him.

In the center of the kitchen was a table with knives on it. The woman, according to the Warden, was about to pick up a knife when his aide, Buddy, leaped on her chest. The attack was so sudden she lost her balance and fell over backward.

Warden Honeck, Mrs. Slevin, Frederick Fagan, Deputy Warden; a trusty and a keeper had all they could do to hold Miss Stone until she gave up the fight. Then she was put in solitary confinement.

Miss Stone's trial for murder is to begin to-morrow. District Attorney Ruston was notified of the attempted escape and sent Edward Cooper, Assistant District Attorney, to question her. The woman denied for a time she had sought

Miller of 124 Johnson avenue, Brooklyn, a chauffeur employed by the company, entered. They seized him and tied him to a chair. Then they saw the messengers approaching in Burden avenue and ran out, but their appearance betrayed them and the messengers took flight. The money was from the Queens branch of the Corn Exchange Bank at Jackson avenue and Fourth street.

Holdup men obtained \$800 Friday night in the Thomas Rouleau grocery at 183 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, by robbing the manager, Bernard McNabb, just as he was closing the store. Two of the bandits forced him to a rear room while a third remained in front and told customers the manager was "out getting a shave." McNabb had just taken the money from the safe and put it in his pocket for safekeeping.

Albion Briggs of 405 Third avenue, The Bronx, a taxicab driver, was ordered yesterday by two men to drive to Central Park West and Sixty-fifth street, where they held him up and obtained \$2. They made Briggs get out on the sidewalk and drove away with the taxicab, which they abandoned at Tenth and Fifty-sixth street.

The police were trying to find some one last night to explain a mysterious attack on Nathan Morosky, a shoemaker. In his shop at 13 Cooper square, he was found on the floor with a fractured skull and was unable to make a statement at Bellevue Hospital. Four young men reported to have been seen about the store were questioned, but have not been placed under charges. Nothing apparently was stolen.

In a furnished room at 239 West Fifty-second street detectives of the safe and lost squad yesterday reported that they had found a stole and a mink coat which were part of a lot valued at \$15,000 stolen from William E. Ball of 33 West Forty-sixth street. Joseph Morris and Ella Morris, found at the previous address, were arrested charged with having stolen goods and burglars' tools in their possession.

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to break away, declaring she wished to go to the warden's office to complain against a matron. Then she broke down and cried.

"All I wanted to do was to go to a department store and get a suit," she said. "I couldn't bear going into court in these clothes."

Miss Stone has been the confidant in Raymond Street Jail of Lillian Raizen, who is charged with killing Dr. Abraham Gluckstein. Heretofore she has created no disorder.

Mr. Kinkead, who was Corporation Counsel of Cincinnati from 1897 to 1906, had wronged her, she says.

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